

death yet again, as Allied aircraft, while bombing the German railroad tracks, mistakenly dropped a bomb on the train car in front of his.

Mr. Mayrsohn's transition into life as a prisoner was eased thanks to the generosity of British prisoners, who provided him with some Red Cross food packages and extra clothing that they had stored away. Over time, as the Red Army continued its inexorable advance westward, the Red Cross packages ran out and no more were on the way. Prisoners began to starve. Mr. Mayrsohn lost more than forty pounds.

As the sounds of artillery became louder over the spring, it was clear that the Red Army was near. In April of 1945, the Russians arrived at the gates of Stalag 4B. After more than five months in enemy captivity, Mr. Mayrsohn was free.

The captain of the liberating Russian unit gathered together Mr. Mayrsohn and four of his fellow American soldiers with three Russian female military personnel for a picture. This photo would return with Mr. Mayrsohn to America. And there it lay, untouched for 57 years, in a bottom drawer.

After the war, Mr. Mayrsohn would return to college, have a family, and start a successful international trading business. In 2003, he decided to use a previously planned trip to Scandinavia as the perfect opportunity to visit Russia and attempt to reunite with the three women in the photo and the Russian officer who snapped it. Mr. Mayrsohn worked with the Russian Cultural Center in Washington, DC, and the Office of Veterans Affairs in Moscow to discover the identity of the soldiers. While it proved impossible to find those particular people, the Office of Veterans Affairs was able to find two female and two male veterans of the battles that liberated the camp.

In August of 2003, accompanied by two soldiers from the American Embassy in Moscow, Mr. Mayrsohn took the four liberators out to a banquet dinner at a prestigious restaurant in Red Square. At the event, gifts were exchanged, as were stories recalling an age of unprecedented cooperation between the two world powers.

He then met with the officer in charge of Russian Veteran Affairs, who not only agreed to help find the soldiers in the picture; he also presented Mr. Mayrsohn with the Russian Blue Star—similar to our Combat Infantry Badge.

These meetings were covered in the Russian media. The "Red Star," the Russian Defense Ministry's official newspaper, even printed an article on Mr. Mayrsohn's story. While the search goes on for more of his liberators, Mr. Mayrsohn, through his efforts, has helped to create goodwill between our two countries. With the Cold War over, and each country attempting to put aside past differences to look ahead towards a common future, efforts by people such as Mr. Mayrsohn are extremely important. Therefore, even if it is ultimately not possible to find the women in his photo, I would say that his mission was a great success.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably unable to cast votes on Tuesday, January 28 and Wednesday, January 29, 2004 as I was part of a Congressional Delegation visiting our troops in Iraq. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

"Yes" on rollcall No. 6, passage of H.R. 1385, authorizing the U.S. Postal Service to issue stamps supporting breast cancer research.

"Yes" on rollcall No. 7, passage of H.R. 3493, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act.

"Yes" on rollcall No. 8, the Baldwin substitute to S. 1920, regarding the Extension of chapter 12 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

"Yes" on rollcall No. 9, the motion to recommit S. 1920 with instructions.

"Yes" on rollcall No. 10, final passage of S. 1920, regarding the Extension of chapter 12 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

"No" on rollcall No. 11, motion to instruct conferees on S. 1920, regarding the Extension of chapter 12 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

## TRIBUTE TO JAY W. WEISS: A GREAT PERSON AND A GREAT PUBLIC PERSON

### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, with great pride—but with deep sorrow—I rise to pay my homage to one of Miami-Dade County's giant leaders, the late Mr. Jay W. Weiss. His untimely demise late Saturday night, January 31, 2004, has cast a veil of sadness over our community.

Indeed, as the business entrepreneur par excellence that he evoked, this extraordinary man easily communed with the pains and anguishes of ordinary people and transformed them into his very own by uplifting them into a timely rationale for creating appropriate solutions to them.

As Chairman of the Miami-Dade County Public Health Trust, he spearheaded the passage of the half-penny tax that now provides continuous support to Jackson Memorial Hospital, along with the funding of the Ryder Trauma Center and the University of Miami/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. These are but a few of the great initiatives his humanitarian spirit willed to come to fruition, and these programs now serve to lessen the burdens of various illnesses and enhance the quality of life for countless people in Miami-Dade County.

Though a highly private individual, he virtually consecrated his life to public service. In so doing he symbolized everything that is good and noble about the American spirit of idealism and optimism in serving our fellowmen.

Our community genuinely feels the loss of a truly decent and caring man who made it his personal business to reach out to the less fortunate among us. Dr. Bernard Fogel, former dean of the University of Miami Medical School, succinctly described Mr. Weiss as someone who believed and lived by the tenets of tzedekah, "... the Jewish tradition of charity ... that's what he was motivated by—doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do."

The numerous accolades with which government officials and various organizations have honored him buttress the unequivocal testimony of the utmost gratitude and respect he enjoyed from a grateful community. He truly epitomized the vision, resilience and compassion of a servant of God whose life served as an example of the great difference each one of us can make on behalf of our community's well-being once we hearken to the calling of our common stewardship over one another.

This is the legacy Mr. Jay W. Weiss bequeathed to us. Indeed, I am privileged to have seen and marveled at the magnificent works that emanated from his boundless heart and great faith. I now join our community in thanking God for letting him grace us with his noble presence during his earthly sojourn.

## BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (S. 1920) to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, our current bankruptcy system is in need of reform. Bankruptcy filings have risen steadily in recent years—growing by nearly 140% during the past four years alone. In Wisconsin, bankruptcy filings are up two-and-a-half times what they were just 10 years ago.

The costs associated with discharging bankruptcy related debt, calculated at over \$40 billion in 2001, hurt all consumers through increased prices on goods and services. In fact, losses associated with bankruptcies alone cost the average American family around \$400 per year.

We need to reform our bankruptcy laws to protect those people truly in need of debt relief while holding accountable those who can repay their debt. The reforms contained in this amended legislation before us today accomplish this, and provide new disclosure requirements for lending institutions to offer better information to consumers about credit cards and